

DATE	SUBMITTED BY	QUESTION	ANSWER
2/3/2021	Chris Mason/City of Northampton Central Services	We are surprised at not finding heat (or energy) recovery ventilation units in the list of prescriptive or eligible energy reduction measures and are wondering if this was an oversight or if there is a particular reason why this important energy conservation technology was left out.	The list of eligible projects is not meant to be exhaustive. The installation of ERVs, along with controls integration between the ERV and the univent temperature controls, would be an eligible project for grant support.
2/3/2021	Chris Mason/City of Northampton Central Services	Would the DOER consider it a qualifying building envelope improvement measure to close and seal outside vents that feed unit ventilators (univents) and instead, provide ventilation with heat (or energy) recovery ventilation units?	While sealing the outdoor air does have an envelope component, the project as described is more of an HVAC project.
2/5/2021	Chris Mason/City of Northampton Central Services	The argument here is that you can drastically reduce energy loss through the building envelope if you close and seal OA intake dampers to univents and instead use HRVs for ventilation. So it should qualify as a building envelope improvement measure.	see above
2/12/2021	Zara Dowling/Zara Dowling	I wasn't sure from the wording in the GC competitive grant if it could include telematics units of the kind provided by GPS Insight (which is on state contract). It provides instantaneous data monitoring, but doesn't have an automatic feedback mechanism ? it would require analysis (which would be provided as part of the project) which could ultimately result in fuel savings both for the town that applied and for other towns benefitting from the knowledge of where fuel is going, and how much is typically expended in idling. This is the language: ? Vehicle routing software and behavioral efficiency o Vehicle tracking and routing software that includes a feedback or fuel-savings component that has been qualified by DOER. Such software must include measurement and verification of the resulting fuel savings Please advise on whether this would include telematics.	DOER would consider funding a telematics unit that does not provide automatic feedback to drivers, provided the project includes an implementation plan that would result in fuel savings through behavior change.
2/11/2021	Kelly Brown	If a GC applies for 25K planning/design grant does that count towards the 100K/200K applicant cap.	Yes
2/11/2021	Shawn Bailey	I am an employee of Old Colony Planning Council in Brockton and have communities that will be submitting in both the April and October rounds!	The community is the applicant, not the person completing the forms.
2/11/2021	Stuart Beckley	Are the Spring pool and Fall pool the same amounts? Or is Fall what is leftover from Spring?	We anticipate awarding equal amounts each Block.
2/11/2021	Stu Besnoff	Did I hear that engineering and design is eligible, while feasibility study is not?	Yes, a feasibility study, is more of a scoping study to determine the technical and financial viability of a potential project. The engineering/design study would be for a project that has already been determined to be feasible, but additional design work is necessary to fully develop a project scope and specifications.
2/11/2021	Al Blake	Are grants available for small wind turbine municipal projects?	It is an eligible project, but the funding request must be accompanied with supporting materials for renewable energy projects as indicated in the PON.

2/11/2021	Benny Burshtein	Does window replacement qualify for green community competitive grant?	Technically, yes. But the energy and cost savings need to be justified. Green Communities has never funded window replacements,
2/11/2021	Pamela Cady	Block 2 is open for 8 weeks. Do submissions sent in earlier during that time period have a greater chance of being funded?	No
2/11/2021	Pamela Cady	If applications have a better chance of receiving funding earlier in that Block's window, is there any way towns can see if all of the funding has already been allocated before the Block closes?	The decisions are not made on a rolling basis.
2/11/2021	Pamela Cady	Is Block 1 currently open to submit applications and will close on April 9th?	The immeet portal will open the week of March 1 for applications.
2/11/2021	Pamela Cady	Is the \$500,000 cap for custom implementation projects available for towns that have already received \$750,000 in grants over past years, or are they eligible for a lower amount?	Communities in the "\$750k Club" are eligiible for a custom grant award up to \$500,000.
2/11/2021	Pamela Cady	Projects must proceed within 180 days of grant contract execution. Does beginning the bid process count as proceeding, or does the project installation need to begin within those 180 days?	As long as work, including procurement, commences within 180 days.
2/11/2021	Pamela Cady	If we get zero funding (because we apply for a different type of project, and it turns out that DOER doesn't fund those) in a spring grant application, can we apply for a fall grant that same year?	Yes, but towns can only be awarded one grant in 2021.
2/11/2021	Stella Carr	where do we access the online application and COMBUYS Q/A? I can't seem to find it	https://www.commbuys.com/bso/external/bidDetail.sdo?bidId=BD-21-1041-ENE01-ENE01-58101&parentUrl=activeBids
2/11/2021	Karen Chapman	From RPA doing both spring and fall	The applications are from municipalities, not the RPA
2/11/2021	Robyn Chrabascz	Are there benefits to submitting in Round 1 over Round 2 this year?	No
2/11/2021	Robyn Chrabascz	If declined in Round 1, can you apply in Round 2 correcting issues?	Yes, however there is no guarantee that funding will be awarded in Block 2
2/11/2021	Shelly Dein	If specially eligible community, does extra vehicle funding mean more \$ per vehicle, or more vehicles? Is the \$7,500 BEV for 1 vehicle, or is that a per vehicle amount?	It means more \$ per vehicle. The \$7,500 grant award is for 1 BEV.
2/11/2021	Shelly Dein	If fuel switching, do you report savings for old fuel and negative savings for new fuel in grant worksheet?	Yes
2/11/2021	Yoni Glogower	Is there a required match for municipalities?	There is no match requirement, but local funding may make some applications more competitive
2/11/2021	Paul McLatchy III	My town is not having a town meeting until our annual in May/June (depending on pandemic). I can't guarantee that the town will contribute money, but would consider asking. How do I include this info in an application, or would I have to wait until Block II? Is town contribution a huge factor?	Town match is not requirement. It becomes a factor for projects with paybacks longer than measure life. If your town's application includes projects with a more favorable return on investment and energy savings to balance out a less competitive project, a town contribution may not be necessary
2/11/2021	Fritzie Nace	Would churches be considered for the Special Eligibility Communities Energy Efficiency projects?	no

2/11/2021	Ken Pruitt	Hi, the 12/3/20 Green Communities December E-Blast stated that final grant reports were due February 26 for communities that wished to be eligible for the spring grant block. However, an earlier slide in today's presentation stated that the final report deadline was TOMORROW, February 12. Can you please clarify?	After an internal discussion about the Feb 26 report deadline, it became clear that our team would not be able to adequately review Final Reports prior to the grant application deadline. An E-blast sent on 1/5/21 had the correct Feb. 12 date, as well as subsequent e-blasts. We apologize for the confusion this has caused.
2/11/2021	Margaret Song	When you reference the energy costs, for gas and electric, are you looking for the entire cost or just the cost of supply?	supply and transmission costs
2/11/2021	Jodi Sullivan	Can the slides be emailed to participants?	They will be posted to our website
2/11/2021	Robert Weiss	If we apply to change a building's heat source from propane to air source heat pump how will that affect the BTUs saved? Where is that information entered into the grant table?	You would include information on how many gallons of propane are saved, along with how much electricity will be used by the heat pump (as a "negative" number)
2/11/2021	Jillian Wilson Martin	Could you please share more information regarding the custom grants? Would a full engineering study be required before an applicant is eligible for an implementation grant?	We expect applications for custom implementation grants to include the appropriate level of engineering to enable the project to proceed without further study, if awarded. <i>Applicants have the option to apply for engineering/study grant in Block 1, and use its results to support an implementation grant in Block 2 of the same year, provided the community did not apply for any other projects (prescriptive or traditional) in Block 1</i>
2/11/2021	Jillian Wilson Martin	Also - can you share what you project the timeline for announcing awards for grant recipients?	The grant deadlines were made with intention of announcing awards as close to 7/1/21 and 12/15/21 as possible.
2/11/2021	Luba Zhaurova	Can we use both EVIP and GC grant to pay for an electric vehicle?	EVIP does not allow this
2/18/2021		Can we replace a propane heater (window AC units) with a heat pump for our Animal Control Shelter?	That would be an eligible project.

2/25/2021	Peter Olmsted/FreeWire Technologies	<p>From our review of the PON, it is clear that our product would not be eligible for the "prescriptive projects" category detailed under section 2. Under this category, only level 2 EV charging equipment is listed as being eligible. Can you please confirm that we are interpreting this correctly? Assuming yes, we are therefore trying to determine our eligibility for the "traditional energy reduction projects" category as well as the "custom projects" category. Under the "traditional energy reduction projects" there is a technology category specified for storage to shave peak demand charges. Given the battery-integrated feature of our level 3 fast charging equipment, our unit configuration results in far less demand on the grid than a conventional fast charger. For example, while our unit never draws more than 27 kW from the grid at any one time, many traditional fast charging units can demand as high as 150 kW or greater. As a result, for site hosts that are moving ahead with installation of DC fast charging equipment, our product helps to significantly mitigate demand charges for site hosts that result from fast charging. In this regard, it is our impression that our product would meet this specific eligibility criteria for energy storage systems. For this requirement, our question is as follows: Would our product configuration, which offers the ability to mitigate demand charges related to EV fast charging, be interpreted as satisfying the criteria for energy storage systems to enable municipal facilities to mitigate demand charges? We presume that if it is determined that we are not eligible for the "traditional energy reduction projects" category, that we would still be eligible under the "custom projects category" given its broad natured scope. As appropriate, would you be able to confirm that from a conceptual level there is nothing that would make our product (160 kWh battery-integrated DC fast charger with output power up to 150 kW) ineligible on its face?</p>	<p>Yes, you are correct, level 2 EV chargers are the only chargers eligible for a prescriptive grant. For storage projects to be eligible for funding, they need to reduce demand charges at an <u>existing facility</u> as well as be able to provide power on site loads in the case of an outage. The installation of DC fast charging equipment, as described in your question, does not meet this requirement. As you indicate, the "custom grant" category is broad. There is nothing that would automatically make the technology as you describe ineligible on its face; however, custom grant awards will be limited and extremely competitive. Successful proposals will need to demonstrate robust reductions in energy use and emissions.</p>
2/25/2021	Amy Snelling/ICF	<p>For the vehicle grants, are Green Communities required to go through VEH98 in order to be eligible for funds? Based on past funding (https://www.mass.gov/doc/map-of-271-gcs-and-grant-summaries/download), it seems like other vehicle types may be covered (e.g., Hatfield electric light duty truck, but that was from 2010). Does the Green Communities program exclude any vehicle types from being eligible?</p>	<p>No, municipalities are not required to purchase vehicles through VEH98. Grants will support the acquisition of battery-electric vehicles to replace existing gas or diesel powered vehicles; and plug-in hybrid, and hybrid vehicles to replace "exempt" vehicles in a municipal fleet. Grants for add-on hybrid technologies are also available.</p>
2/26/2021	Amy Snelling/ICF	<p>I see that there is a current list of Green Communities here: https://www.mass.gov/doc/map-of-271-gcs-and-grant-summaries/download. Is there a list of Green Communities that are considered specially eligible under the current Green Communities Competitive Grant Program (https://www.mass.gov/doc/po-ene-2021-034-gc-competitive-grant/download)?</p>	<p>The list of "Specially Eligible" communities are posted on our website here: https://www.mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division and on CommBuys</p>
3/4/2021		<p>Are communities required to provide a match for the \$25 engineering/design custom grant?</p>	<p>No</p>

3/11/2021	Joe Bliss/B2Q	<p>The community I am working with is interested in applying for a custom grant for a strategic electrification project. The scope would involve replacing existing electric chillers and natural gas-fired boilers with a combined electric heat pump or heat recovery chiller system. The project may not, as a standalone item, reduce energy costs or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but would be part of a longer-term strategy to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the town as a whole by enabling the expanded use of renewable electricity sources and phasing out of fossil fuel equipment. Would you consider this project suitable for a custom grant application? Or would additional energy conservation measures need to be included so that the combined project scope has a net energy cost or net greenhouse gas emissions reduction?</p>	<p>Projects that demonstrate greenhouse gas reductions will be more competitive. While DOER is supportive of municipal efforts to phase out fossil fuel equipment, this year's Custom Grant awards will prioritize projects with significant greenhouse gas reductions.</p>
3/11/2021	Joe Bliss/B2Q	<p>For engineering and design grant applications to support a custom grant, can you clarify the specific requirements for the ASHRAE Level II audit component of the scope? Is an ASHRAE Level II report required to be submitted to DOER at the conclusion of the grant period? Can previously completed ASHRAE Level II reports be included in the engineering and design grant application as a substitute for including a new audit in the scope of the grant application? Can records of recently implemented and/or proposed energy conservation measures be included in the engineering and design grant application as a substitute for including a new audit in the scope of the grant application?</p>	<p>Communities should submit either an ASHRAE Level 2 audit or other study that indicates current energy use and costs, general condition of the facility and/or equipment, and the estimated cost and energy/ghg impacts of proposed measures to be implemented. Previous audit reports should be sufficient, as long as they contain pertinent information and are based on an audit conducted within the last five years. Records of recently implemented or proposed measures MIGHT be used in lieu of an audit report, provided they include enough information to evaluate the feasibility of the proposed project</p>
3/11/2021	Joe Bliss/B2Q	<p>What are DOER's expectations for deliverables resulting from an engineering and design grant application in support of a future custom grant application? How does DOER determine that a community has successfully completed the engineering and design project? Is a report of a particular format required to be submitted to DOER at the end of the process? Are engineering drawings and specifications of a particular stage of design required to be submitted to DOER at the end of the process?</p>	<p>Deliverables of the engineering and design grant funding should be expected to include all information required for submission of the future custom grant and satisfy the Town's procurement process. Successful completion of the engineering and design process would be at the Town's discretion. While the PON does not specify any reporting requirements and/or format as part of the engineering and design process, as it is expected the Town will apply for a Custom Project grant in the future, final grant reporting requirements as specified in the grant contract apply to the engineering and design grant. The engineering drawings and specifications should be sufficiently detailed to be "shovel ready".</p>
3/11/2021	Joe Bliss/B2Q	<p>What level of drawings and specifications are expected to support a custom grant application? For example, would the level of design need to meet the standards typically required to put a project out to competitive bid by qualified installing contractors? Or could it be acceptable to only complete a schematic level design, such as would typically be used for pricing by a cost estimator or for bidding to a design-build contractor?</p>	<p>Due to the size and scope of the Custom Project grant funding, it is anticipated procurement through a public bid process will be necessary. The engineering and design grant funding should allow for a robust design process and a competitive bid which will maximize the value to the Town. Drawings and specifications should follow each Town's procurement requirements</p>
3/11/2021	Joe Bliss/B2Q	<p>Is a community eligible to apply for technical assistance (TA) funding from a utility to supplement the funding for an engineering and design application to support a future custom grant application? If so, would the TA vendor be barred from future participation in the implementation of the custom grant project, if awarded?</p>	<p>Communities are highly encouraged to utilize TA funding available from a utility. The community would need to follow public procurement regulations and best practices related to engaging with the TA provider in the custom grant project, as well as any requirements the utility may have.</p>

3/15/2021	Andrea Bacerra	Fire station equipment is due for replacement...Can we include the replacement of gas powered tools for electric alternatives if there are demonstrated energy savings and a balanced ROI?	No, that is not an eligible project.
3/15/2021	Andrea Bacerra	How can we demonstrate BTUs for Community outreach programs	There are numerous ways to demonstrate energy savings or greenhouse gas reductions in a community outreach program. It would depend on the goals of the program. Common metrics may include, # of households that followed through with recommendations from a MassSave energy audit (along with estimated savings from implementation); estimated reductions from installing heat pumps or solar PV, etc.
3/18/2021	Town of Yarmouth	The Town of Yarmouth is working diligently towards an Anaerobic Digester and the project is close to construction. The project will require updating our electrical system, lighting (LED) and removing partitions to accommodate the equipment in a currently unoccupied large Town building for this project. Is this permissible?	Supporting anaerobic digester projects is an eligible use of grant funds. Applications must include: Documentation demonstrating the availability of the renewable resource identified in this application; a list of materials and equipment to be installed including manufacturer's specifications/product names; a description of the source materials to be used and a plan for obtaining source material; a description of plans and/or actions already taken to encourage community support for the project. Competitive applications in this category should be "shovel-ready."
3/18/2021		We have a door that may make more sense to replace than to add weather stripping to due to the condition of the existing door. Would this qualify under the prescriptive weather stripping grant or would this fall outside that prescriptive category?	The project as described would not be considered under the prescriptive category